

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2861
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2002
AILING COCONUT CULTIVATION
P. RAJENDRAN;T. GOVINDAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Government of Kerala regarding assistance for protecting the ailing coconut cultivation in the State recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): Recently, a Project for 'Enhancing Productivity of Coconut Holdings in Root Wilt Diseased Areas of Kerala' has been received from Government of Kerala with a total cost of Rs.576.14 crores for a period of five years, which includes adoption of scientific crop management; removal of diseased trees in the border districts of Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur; supply of seedlings for replanting and creation of awareness etc. The project stipulates Government of India's share of Rs.181.70 crores.

The project has been examined in Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. Coconut Development Board, since its inception, has spent Rs.110.94 crores in Kerala for similar programmes. The problem of root wilt disease with 80 lakh disease advanced coconut palms spread over eight district of Kerala and requiring such a high investment within a time frame cannot be tackled with meagre financial allocation available with Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. Government of Kerala, therefore, alongwith detailed comments on the project, has been advised to redesign the project for posing to Planning Commission or external funding agency for which a full fledged project may be required giving detailed justification for strategies and components proposed to be implemented, the time frame, milestones for each activity alongwith Techno-economic viability etc. The State Government has been, accordingly, requested to revise the project.